

2003 Maine STD Incidence

During the period January 1, 2003 to March 31, 2003, the Maine Bureau of Health received reports of 485 chlamydia diagnoses, 37 gonorrhea diagnoses, and 2 cases of infectious syphilis. The number of gonorrhea reports received thus far in 2003 is 76% greater than the number received during the same time period last year. A higher volume of chlamydia has also been reported, with a 36% increase over the first quarter of 2002. At this time last year, no cases of infectious syphilis had yet been diagnosed, indicating increased incidence for this disease, as well.

Gonorrhea diagnoses continue to occur at outbreak levels, with highest concentrations in the central and southern regions of the state. Men who have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by gonorrhea, comprising 41% of reported diagnoses. In a continuing trend, chlamydia infections were most often diagnosed in young people between the ages of 15 and 24 years old, with this age group accounting for 78% of diagnoses this year. The table below shows demographics for 2003 Chlamydia and Gonorrhea diagnoses.

Chlamydia and Gonorrhea Diagnoses in Maine, January to March, 2003

(rounded percents are listed in parentheses)

Sex	Chlamydia reported since 1/1/2003	Gonorrhea reported since 1/1/2003
Male	155 (32)	26 (70)
Female	330 (68)	11 (30)
Total	485 (100)	37 (100)
Race	Chlamydia reported since 1/1/2003	Gonorrhea reported since 1/1/2003
White	363 (75)	34 (92)
Black or African American	8 (2)	1 (3)
Asian	5 (1)	0
American Indian/Alaska Native	5 (1)	0
Native Hawaiian/other Pacific Islander	0	0
More than one Race	0	0
Some Other Race	0	0
Unknown	104 (21)	2 (5)
Total	485 (100)	37 (100)
Ethnicity	Chlamydia reported since 1/1/2003	Gonorrhea reported since 1/1/2003
Hispanic	1 (<1)	0
Not Hispanic	380 (78)	35 (95)
Unknown	104 (21)	2 (5)
Total	485 (100)	37 (100)
Age	Chlamydia reported since 1/1/2003	Gonorrhea reported since 1/1/2003
less than 15	4 (1)	0
15-19	176 (36)	3 (8)
20-24	202 (42)	13 (35)
25-29	56 (12)	5 (14)
30-39	33 (7)	10 (27)
40-54	11 (2)	4 (11)
55+	0	0
Age Unknown	3 (1)	2 (5)
Total	485 (100)	37 (100)
Region of Residence	Chlamydia reported since 1/1/2003	Gonorrhea reported since 1/1/2003
Northern ¹	121 (25)	2 (5)
Central ²	192 (40)	14 (38)
Southern ³	169 (35)	21 (57)
Unknown	3 (1)	0
Total	485 (100)	37 (100)

¹Northern Maine: Aroostook, Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Washington Counties.

²Central Maine: Androscoggin, Franklin, Kennebec, Knox, Lincoln, Oxford, Sagadahoc, Somerset, Waldo Counties.

³Southern Maine: Cumberland and York Counties.